

#### Workforce Connection

Anaconda Job Service Workforce Center 307 East Park Street Anaconda, MT 59711



### Manager's Overview

Ohman, Manager





Yearly Statistics for the Anaconda Job :

- Total Job Orders Taken/Assigned in 2007-517
- Total Job Placements-512
- New Registrants looking for work—667
- Activated or reactivated their registrations - 1551
- New Veteran Registrations-58
- New registers through the website-507
- Reactivating their registration through the website-1051

Department of Labor and Industry's Core Values

**Customer Focus** 

Ethics in the Workplace
Individual Growth
Individual Responsibility
Continuous Improvement
Superior Customer Service

I would like to introduce you to our new quarterly Anaconda Job Service Workforce Center's newsletter.

Please let me introduce or reintroduce myself. My name is Marilyn Ohman, new manager at the Anaconda Job Service Workforce Center as of August 5, 2007. I'm not a new face at this Job Service as I have been with the Anaconda Job Service since 1986 working in several capacities from receptionist to Employment and Training Consultant/Office Leadworker. For the last 10 years our office was managed out of the Butte Job Service One Stop Center. With new direction and a different focus coming from our Leadership Support Center, upper level management felt that each Job Service Office needed to have leadership staff locally that would help their center develop to meet the goals and direction of the department. I look forward to helping staff grow and learn new responsibilities to better address the needs of our business and job seeker customers and our communities as a whole.

There is a huge perception by people that there are no jobs in our service area but not so. There are jobs and job seekers. What we are seeing is a lack of specific talents to fill those jobs. Our focus will be on ways to develop those talents that will meet the needs of our business customers. To get there and make that happen, staff are being trained at better understanding and interpreting labor market information, better in depth case management, affective career counseling and better business services. Those four areas: Labor Market Information, Case Management, Career Counseling and Business Services are what we are calling our four "Food Groups". Leadership in the Workforce Services Division will be focusing on bringing and providing relevant training for staff in the future so the services we do provide are done in an efficient and affective manner.

We are experiencing some of the lowest unemployment rates in our counties in decades. The most recent numbers provided by our state's research and analysis bureau report the following: Deer Lodge County 4.6%; Powell County 6.1% and Granite County 4.9%. Montana as a whole is at 3.6% compared to the nation's unemployment rate of 5.0%. These rates are up slightly from the previous 3 months due to the seasonal affect we experience through the winter months. It is said that anything below 4% reflects very little if any unemployment. The 3 counties we serve-Deer Lodge, Granite and Powell experienced an average below 4% for most of 2007. Montana is on the move and your Job Service Workforce Centers will be positioning ourselves to build great partnerships with economic, community and talent development. I look forward to being a part of this new and exciting endeavor and encourage and welcome questions you may have. On behalf of management and staff, we wish you a prosperous and wonderful 2008.

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## Meet the Staff



Anaconda Job Service Staff from left to right: Jane Bing-Craig, Rachel Scheett, Shirley Cortright, Marilyn Ohman, Karen Ralph



"The World is Run By Those Who Show Up!" Marilyn Ohman, Manager

Manager since August 2007

Job Service Employee since April 1986

Marilyn has worked in various capacities in Job Service. Until becoming manager, she was the local office Leadworker since 2004 and worked as a job training program operator and consultant. Other duties included local office computer technician and receptionist.

"My goal is to assure that we are meeting the needs of both our business customers and job seeking customers to the best of our abilities and capabilities. We want to accomplish those goals through quality services and partnerships."

Marilyn is married and has 4 grown children and 5 grandchildren.

Shirley Cortright, Business Resource Consultant/Workforce Specialist

Shirley has worked for the State for over 22 years. Worked at Montana State Hospital/Galen Campus as a Personnel Specialist until July of 1993 when the facility was closed at which time transferred to the Butte Job Service Office and later to the Anaconda Office. Have worked in various capacities such as Employment Consultant, Unemployment Insurance Claims Taker, Business Resource Consultant and JSEC Coordinator.

Enjoy working with both business customers and job seekers. Committed to providing quality customer service. Very community minded.

Shirley is married and has an eight year old daughter.



Information in regards to community resources is available to any customer in printed form in our office. It also can be found on our local office website. The web-address is listed on the last page of this publication.

Jane Bing-Craig, Workforce Specialist

Jane has worked for the State off and on since 1973 when she began with the DDB (Disability Determination Bureau). She joined Job Service in 1992 and has worked for the Anaconda and Butte offices. Previously she worked for DPHHS, taught 1 year and worked for various other businesses. Most recently a case manager and will return to Employment Specialist work and continue to help customers in their job search efforts. People work is interesting and rewarding.

She is married and has (6) Meows and (1) Bark, Bark!

Karen Ralph, Workforce Specialist

Karen has been a State of Montana employee for the past 20 years. She started in 1988 at Montana State Hospital as a Medical Records Technician transferring to the Anaconda Job Service in 2000. For the past 7 years Karen was the Human Resource Assistant for the Anaconda Office and was recently promoted to an Employment Specialist.

Karen is looking forward to working with the businesses and job seekers in the surrounding communities and meeting the demands of today's workforce.

Karen is married and has a seven year old son.

Rachel Scheett, Workforce Specialist/WoRC Case Manager

Rachel started in the Anaconda Office in 1999 as an Employment Assistant and has worked in both the Butte and Anaconda Offices as an Employment Specialist. She recently returned to Anaconda after working in Idaho and currently provides case management to TANF participants.

Rachel is looking forward to providing area labor market information and talent development, and is transferring to the Butte Office on February 19th.

Rachel is married and has a three year old daughter.

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#### New Minimum Wage as of January 1, 2008

Pursuant to Initiative 151, the Montana minimum wage increased to \$6.25 effective January 1, 2008.

Initiative 151 requires an adjustment to the minimum wage to be calculated no later than September 30th of each year based upon any increase in the U.S. City Average Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for All Items ("CPI") from August of the preceding year to August of the year in which the calculation is made. This amount is to be rounded to the nearest five cents.

The 2007 minimum wage was \$6.15. Based on an increase in the CPI of 1.97% from August, 2006 to August, 2007, the calculation used for determining the minimum wage rate for 2008 is as follows:

\$6.15 X .0197 + \$.1211, rounded to \$0.10.

The initiative also states the minimum wage to be the greater of the federal or current state minimum wage. Effective July 24, 2008, the minimum wage will increase to \$6.55 per hour, based on the federal minimum wage increase.

#### Basic Accounting/QuickBooks Class Being Offered

Through the efforts of the Horizon's Project, two classes will be offered to assist individuals and/or business in honing their bookkeeping/accounting skills. Classes will meet at the Anaconda High School. The first class will address the Basics of Accounting and is scheduled to run 5 Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 beginning February 5, 2008. The second class being offered will address Basics of QuickBooks geared toward small business beginning Tuesday, March 11 at 6:30 and also running for 5 sessions. Classes will be taught by Russell Biniek, a business instructor from Anaconda High School. Class size is limited so sign up as soon as possible. Please call for information and to register at 563-5538.





Those receipts in your glove compartment can be important!!

#### **EMPLOYERS: JSEC NEEDS YOU**

The Job Service Employer's Committee was formed years ago to help Job Service and Employers address issues in the local business community. The group is an advisory committee to the local Job Service office and the State Department of Labor. Because of business staffing changes in the last six months, our local Tri-County JSEC is in need of new volunteers. We need representatives from Powell, Granite and Deer Lodge County. There are many personnel issues out there that can be discussed and addressed through a collaborative effort of JSEC members. Meetings are usually held once a month. There are approximately 21 JSEC's operating in the state of Montana so employer's voices are being heard. Please join us in growing a strong Job Service Employers Committee. Call Shirley at 406-563-4122.



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Phone: 406-563-3444 Fax: 406-563-7827

Superior Service for a Working Montana.



WE'RE ON THE WEB

• wsd.dli.mt.gov/local/anaconda

# Work Opportunity Tax Credit-WOTC Reap the benefits of being a rural designation with Tax Credits



TAX SAVINGS

#### Area Employers could be eligible for up to \$9,000 in federal tax credits.

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) is a federal tax credit that reduces the federal tax liability of private employers who hire from nine targeted groups (list of targeted groups can be obtained from Job Service). If you hire an individual from a WOTC targeted group your company may be eligible <u>for up to</u> \$9,000 in federal tax credits. New this year is the target group called 'Rural Renewal County'.

In addition to the regular WOTC Program, Deer Lodge County is one of Nineteen Counties in Montana classified as a Rural Renewal County which meets the criteria of being a designated community Resident (now, one of the targeted groups under the WOTC program).

Individuals qualify if they reside within Deer Lodge County, are at least 18 but not yet 40 years old and complete an IRS Form 8850 on or before the job is offered. Forms must be submitted within 28 days of the employee hire date. No rehires (can't have worked for the company prior). New hire must stay employed for at least 120 hours over the first year of employment (part-time, full-time or seasonal).

For more information regarding this tax credit and/or obtaining documentation contact the Anaconda Job Service Workforce Center (406) 563-4122 or Montana Workforce Services Division—WOTC Unit at (406) 444-9046 or (800) 726-0615.